(c) when the amount of *ad hoc* increase in the royalty rates pending the final decision will be released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to fix the final rate of royalty on crude oil for the period 1993—98. Crude price and royalty rate are worked out on the basis of the actual weighted average cost of production figures audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The crude price and final rate of royalty for the period 1993—96 is being worked out, after which necessary adjustments would be made against the 'on account' payments already made. For the period 1996—98, crude price and royalty rate would be worked out on receipt of audited figures of the cost of production and rate of royalty of crude oil from CAG for that period.

Industrial Kerosene

1037. SHRI GHUFRAN ASZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantity of industrial Kerosene sold by the PSUs in different States is deducted out of the quantity of kerosene allotted under PDS to that respective State;

(b) whether the quantity of industrial kerosene to be supplied in a particular State is fixed or is supplied as per the demand of the industrial consumers; and

(c) whether ex-storage point price of the industrial kerosene is almost similar to the ex-Kandla price of kerosene being imported by the parallel marketeers of kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Kerosene is allocated product and annual allocation is made by the Central Government to States/UTs. for distribution through PDS. However, State Governments allocate small quantity out of the total allocations to industrial units based on valid permits issued by District Authorities. *Consequent upon decanalisation* of imports of kerosene in April, 1993, under Parallel Marketers Scheme, all State Governments were advised to reduce/ eleminate allocation of kerosene for industrial units from P.D.S.

(c) Yes, Sir. The pricing of indusrial kerosene has been decontrolled effective 1.4.98. Accordingly, the oil companies are now fixing prices of industrial kerosene on their own based on market consideration.

Quantity of kerosene under PDS

1038. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much minimum quantity of kerosene under PDS is fixed to make the dealership economically viable;

(b) by what time all the subsidised Kerosene Oil dealerships belonging to SCs/STs and ladies shall be made economically viable and for their smooth running; and

(c) whether Government would issue direction to SLC and PSUs to give total yearly increased quantity to such dealers running below the economically viable limit and newly commissioned dealerships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per the existing norms, a Kerosene Dealership is viable provided the dealer is able to market quantity of 75 KL of Kerosene per month.

(b) and (c) Allocations are made to Kerosene dealers including SC/ST and Women category by oil companies/State

Governments. As per the oil industry practice throughout the country, a maximum allocation of 250 KL of Kerosene per month per block dealership is made. New dealerships are created by restructuring the existing dealerships selling more than 250 KL of Kerosene per month. Any additional allocations above 250 KL is distributed to the dealerships whose allocation is less than 75 KL per month.

Petrol pump at Bhikiyasain in Almora district

1039. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no petrol pump at Tehsil headequarter of Bhikiyasain in Almora district of Uttar Pradesh; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam has assessed or propose to assess the requirement of Bhikiyasain Tehsil headquarter and its adjoining areas such as Janala, Bhatraujkhan, Basot, Machhour, Sadar, Masi, etc. in order to open petrol pump there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefore and by when the said assessment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Retail Outler dealerships are opened at locations meeting Oil Industry's viability norms. Location Bhikiyasain has not been found feasible for setting up retail outlet dealership.

(b) Government is not aware about any such survey conducted or propose to be conducted by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam.

Does not arise.

Corruption in Petrol Pumps

1040. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Petrol Pump par Upri Kamai May Malik Ka Bhi Hissa" appeared in the Navbharat Times dated the 31st January, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. No such instances have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Regular inspections/ surprise checks of retail outlets are carried out by the officers of the oil marketing companies. Also special drives are lunched by the industry from time to time for checking malpractices including adulteration.

Refining capacity in the country

1041. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the refining capacity in India as on 31st December, 1998;

(b) which oil refineries in India are using the indigenous crude from the Assam Oil Fields;

(c) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the ban imposed by ULFA on Oil Transport from Assam;

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether Government have decided to increase the quantity of imported crude in 1998-99?